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Price Control in Poland

During the economic depression, the prices, especially of agricultural products, sank in Poland to one of the lowest levels in the world. As the prices of manufactured goods, mostly dependent on foreign raw materials for their production, always had in Poland a tendency to stay high in proportion to the world prices, the disparity between agricultural and industrial prices was nowhere greater than in Poland.

The phenomenon known as the "opening of the scissors" occurred to an unprecedented extent, resulting in privation for the farmers and in a heavy drop in the sales of all the industrial products. Budget troubles experienced by the Treasury were a natural consequence of that slowing down of the rate of production and volume of exchanges.

When the first signs of improvement made themselves felt about 1935, the State budget after several years of the depression was already very compressed. This made it easier to manage a speedy recovery of the Treasury in the course of 1936, accompanied by a strengthening of the currency after the introduction of export prohibitions in 1936.

The building season of 1936 has been the most active for many years, and it was expected that the season of 1937 might be even better. The government's great construction plan, known as the "Kwiatkowski four year plan", has just been started.

Then a hitch occurred which threatened the progress of recovery, being at the same time one of its symptoms. The rise of prices in Poland has been faster and greater than in most other countries. The rise of agricultural prices from their abnormally low level was only natural and beneficial to the national economy as a whole—opening the vast country market to all the industries.

But the rise continued far beyond what would appear a reasonable level. The industrial prices, as usual took the lead. They jumped up by at least the amount of the increase of the agricultural prices, thus nullifying the effect of the temporary "closing of the scissors". The activity of the numerous cartels and selling agreements controlling many branches of industry in Poland has been mainly responsible for that.

The effects of such a general rise, unjustified by a devaluation of the currency, could be disastrous to all except some profiteers. The scissors would be opened again, and the stability of the budget would be threatened—as the increase of public revenue can never keep pace with the increase of expenditure if there is a whole-

sale rise of prices. The possibilities of export would be reduced, - as in some cases Polish prices soared above the corresponding world prices. The working masses would undoubtedly suffer, - as the rise of wages also soon keeps up with a strong rise of prices. Finally, the great reconstruction plan, for which definite sums have been already budgeted, would have to be substantially reduced.

Some energetic counteraction was called for. Only the government could undertake it, - and it did. The Cabinet decided at its meeting of the 7-th inst. to take all the necessary measures for controlling the excessive rise of prices and keeping it within limits justified by the rise in the prices of certain raw materials of foreign origin.

The export premiums on grain were suspended already a month ago, and now the export of grain has been temporarily prohibited, in order to bring down its price. Several cartels have been dissolved by the government, permitting the play of free competition, which will bring the prices down. The largest of the cartels so far dissolved is that of zinc, which brought the price of that metal in Poland to 885 zł. per ton, while the same Polish zinc was sold in London for 785 zł. and cost 560 zł. as recently as in October 1936. Zinc sheets are widely used in Poland for roof covering and the price of zinc is therefore an element of the price of building.

The import tariff on zinc and lead has been suppressed, which move guarantees that the price of these metals, produced in sufficient quantities in Poland, will not rise above the world prices.

A special Commission for the Control of prices has been set up. The Commission, independent from the Ministries and directly subordinated to the Prime Minister's Office, will have various means of action at its disposal, including the reduction or suppression of import tariffs, the increase of import quotas, the control of railway freight tariffs, the use of special credits, etc.

One of the first moves in the battle of prices was the substantial decrease of the freight rates for bricks over long distances. It will check effectively the speculation of the brick manufacturers of the Warsaw region, who increased their prices in anticipation of a busy building season. Brick manufacturers from distant parts of the country will now be able to compete successfully with them, thanks to low freight rates, and the continuation of a strong building activity is certainly among the principal conditions of prosperity in Poland. (ATE)

Population of Poland increased by 409,000 in 1936

The population of Poland on January 1-st, 1937, has been estimated by the Central Statistical Bureau at 34,221,000.

In 1936 there were 284,425 marriages celebrated in Poland, which shows a slight increase over 1935 (280,025). The number of births increased from 876,667 in 1935 to 892,320 in 1936. Although the number of deaths has also increased, from 470,998 in 1935 to 482,633, the net increase of population in 1936, amounting to 409,687, was larger than the corresponding increase for 1935, which amounted to 405,669.

The total population of 34,221,000 has been estimated, after allowing for emigration etc. The population of Poland has increased by 2,078,000 in the last five years. This increase of 6.5% is among the largest in any country.

Swedish Scientist honoured in Cracow

Prof. C. Benedicks of Stockholm received the degree of doctor honoris causa of the Cracow Mining Academy, in the presence of H. E. the Swedish Minister Plenipotentiary and of the representatives of the Cracow University. Professor Benedicks, a scientist of world repute, is a member of the Warsaw Academy of Science and has been corresponding with the Mining Academy for a long time.

New American Ambassador in Warsaw

Mr. John Cudahy, American Ambassador in Warsaw since 1933, is to leave his post soon. His successor will be Mr. Anthony J. Biddle Jr., former business magnate and, since 1935, American Minister in Oslo.

Mr. Biddle has already received the agreement of the Polish government and his arrival in Warsaw is expected within the next week.

Polish Minister's Visit to Brussels

Mr. Anthony Roman, Minister of Commerce and Industry, left Warsaw on the 15-th inst. on a visit to Brussels, returning the visit of the Belgian Minister of National Economy, Mr. Van Isacker, who was a guest of the Polish government a few months ago.

(ATE)

LONDON LETTER

By Gregory Macdonald

Mr. Baldwin was at his best last week in the speech which he delivered to his constituents at Worcester. He is surrounded now with a special aura as the retiring Prime Minister and as an Elder Statesman to be. The place where his speech was delivered gave it a character of its own. Worcester is the domain of his family, a most English county of provincial England, untroubled by the alarms of Westminster; and Mr. Baldwin himself, in his capacity as a man of letters has done much to add to the fame of Worcestershire, both by his descriptions of a quiet countryside and by his act in drawing attention to the novels of Mary Webb. To-day there is a Mary Webb Country, with charabancs and tea-shops, just as there is a Hardy Country or a Wordsworth Country.

Mr. Baldwin in the country, with his cares slipping from his shoulders could afford to be reflective. His character and his period of office will be subject to as much debate as the character and career of Gladstone. His enemies find him over-subtle to the point of dishonesty. At all events he has many enemies; and they have never succeeded in many attempts to damage his political hold over the country. His friends find him astute. His admirers blindly worship him as the most honest man in the country. Here there is, perhaps, an analogy to be drawn with M. van Zeeland of Belgium. No one can deny Mr. Baldwin's cleverness, and as I mentioned recently there is a good case to be made for him, at least during the last two years, as a wise man of Fabian tactics who has preserved his country from manifest dangers of foreign war and internal dissolution.

In his Worcester speech he reflected aloud, as is his wont, on long-term changes of ideas. Remarking that it may well be a generation before men can appreciate historically what were the effects of the Great War on the mentality of Europe, he went on to say that "in modern history there can have been no such movement of ideas except the period of the Reformation and the French Revolution". But England, he thought, had a Constitution of its own developed over a long period of time and without a spirit of violence. That Constitutional temper might be in danger in days of mechanisation and of materialism—these were the forces making for mass impressions and mass consciousness—and he warned his hearers against allowing either Communism or Fascism into this country. They were alien creeds. "There are some people—not many, but a few—who speak wildly and loosely about sudden and fundamental

changes. Look out for them".

Mr. Baldwin showed himself once more to be a man who understands the national character to the full. If he is as subtle as his enemies say, he understands also the national self-delusions. On the subjects of Communism and Fascism his judgement can be called correct. The people here almost instinctively close their ranks against what is foreign. But once the Reformation and the French Revolution have been conjured up, the possibility of sudden and fundamental changes cannot be denied. Both made sudden and fundamental changes in this country, even Constitutional changes; and the French Revolution, leading to the conflict with Napoleon, resulted in the international domination of financial London which was the key of the nineteenth century. The ending of that domination, even by its passing to Wall Street in the twenties (not to mention more recent changes) was one of the most obvious results of the Great War. But if Mr. Baldwin's speech did not actually settle future lines of policy it was an extremely interesting analysis of the national temper with which they will be received.

The Prime Minister, trained in the Treasury, is probably better aware than most of the real currents of politics, about which the people of Worcester are ignorant; and his allusion to the mass mind may well have been an allusion to the power of the Press; that of the Government, with which he has never quite seen eye to eye. The Press, as a rule, not only in Britain, cloaks the issues instead of presenting them to the people, but even the Press cannot prevent certain changes and certain appreciations in popular ideas. The break in the gold and commodities markets last week, caused by a simple rumour that Washington might reduce the price of gold, brought home to many people that the once powerful City of London, together with the financial and speculative markets of the world, are in a state of hysterical weakness. It is increasingly clear that Governments and Money, so far as Washington is concerned and so far as Whitehall is concerned, are in opposition to one another. It has equally come home that the tripartite agreement, about which the Press has been curiously silent except in the financial pages, is a foundation of the renewed prosperity of the world. But not the best-informed and the most independent observers are able to forecast the results of the negotiations now taking place in Washington and London. An agreement on War Debts is officially denied.

(Continued on page 2)

PRESS REVIEW

The question of the alleged rapprochement between Russia and Germany is discussed in the *I.K.C.* which considers this new sensation to be nothing but an intrigue of Moscow's "Soviet inspiration endeavours to exploit the slightest opportunity to complicate international relations, introduce distrust and render more difficult the possibility of peaceful cooperation amongst European states." As regards Ludendorff especially, the *"I.K.C."* considers that everything speaks against the possibility of an understanding with Bolshevism. "The opinions of Ludendorff are known to the whole world if only from his book 'Totalitarian war' in which he expresses his negative attitude towards Russia."

Warszawski Dziennik Narodowy calls attention to the change of tactics adopted by the German minority in Poland in combatting the land reform bill in the former Prussian partition. They are now supporters of the idea of redistributing the large landed possessions among the peasantry, obviously, the German peasants. "Although after the war many Germans left our Western lands, yet there is still a strong German economic element there. It is an elementary task of national policy to colonize this state area as far as possible with our own settlers." The *Dziennik* further reminds its readers of the heroic struggle against the Polish population during the time of the German occupation and continues: "It would be a political shortsightedness and also an ingratitude toward the victims of this struggle to forget that the land, still in the hands of Germans, is Polish land."

Kurier Polski writes about the new Russia which, it says, is changing quickly and becoming nationalistic. There is even a certain anti-semitism, not in the style of the anti-semitism of the Tsarist days "but a struggle with the overgrowth of Jewish influences is distinct and significant." "The internal changes are accompanied by a change of method in foreign policy. A new Russian state imperialism is arising. New Russia is feverishly seeking its own ways and paths which are ever more frequently crossing the former Russian ways. The wheel of history is turning." The Polish press approves the action of the government in dissolving cartels that have carried on a policy injurious to the community.

Express Poranny writes: "Government arbitration based, above all, on the special significance of the present historic period of Poland, has, as we see, its foundation also in the fact that nobody can be a judge of his own affairs, as he may judge them wrongly — even for himself. Only the government, looking at the social problem from the point of view of the interests of the whole, can decide on the level of prices, which is rational for the entire national economy. In this legal right of the government lies the guarantee of the proper economic development of Poland and therefore it must be acknowledged as one of the fundamental principles of the system in which we are to live, to create new values, realize social justice and rise to the level of foreign potentialities."

Dziennik Poranny, discussing the cartel question, says that "the dissolution of the zinc cartel was a verdict on all those cartels whose action was in glaring contradiction to the interests of the whole community. The summoning of a commission for the control of prices within the Council of Ministers guarantees that the action of opposing unjustifiable rises in prices will be conducted by the government with firmness and that the broad

Poland cultivates flax

by Jerzy M. Taylor

From time immemorial flax has been the plant which next to corn, was chiefly cultivated by quiet, rural Poland. During the early middle ages the acquisitive Germanic tribes neighbouring with Poland knew well that behind the thick, almost inaccessible, forests in the basins of the Vistula and the Warta there lay fertile plains on which glistered fields of rye and barley and blue lines of flax. We find mention of this in many German chronicles.

Enormous forests, virgin jungles, full of all kinds of animals, supplied former Poles with a sufficient quantity of meat at all seasons of the year; from the coarsely ground rye there was bread, from barley they made beer, an equally favourite beverage, in ancient Poland as was mead, whilst flax yielded clothing. A complete outfit. Up to the present day in the Polesie, on the northern borders of contemporary Poland and in the Carpathian foothills — on the southern frontiers of the large state, which by the sword and will of the Great Marshal regained its independent existence after a captivity of a hundred and fifty years — flax still furnishes the peasants with their entire clothing.

The fibres obtained from stalks of the flax plant are spun in the long winter months by the industrious peasant women and later used for weaving into linen towels, or clothes.

This homespun is perhaps rather coarse but its wearing capacity is unrivalled; it is simply imperishable. The inhabitants of these parts, endowed with great artistic taste are able to create real marvels from it. A few years ago at the Northern Fair arranged annually at Vilno, I saw linen produces by the peasants which would satisfy the most fastidious taste. The linen towels, ornamented with coloured embroideries, lace and so on, are indeed very pretty.

These articles are known on the international markets and at home, they have long ago acquired numerous purchasers and admirers but let us not forget this is only folk industry. These are all products of handicraft. A man has but two hands, can only dispose of a limited number of hours a day and hence his productive possibilities are limited.

Meanwhile the inhabitants of the neighbourhood where flax is principally cultivated, the people of the Vilno province, besides satisfying their own needs, besides producing the articles mentioned above — have still a surplus quantity of flax stalks and thrashed flax. What can be done with it? A certain amount has been constantly consumed by the home industrial market. Large Polish factories have always bought flax from the villagers, but a considerable quantity that still remained had to be exported abroad. This export, however, never yielded a profit sufficient to be felt by the agriculturist who cultivated the flax. The price it fetched on

the market was too low. It could not be otherwise. We only exported the raw material.

A few years since, however, the situation changed for the better. The Polish Government devoted attention to this branch of production which, aided by careful consideration might yield the farmer important profits. In the first instance efforts were made to foster the sale of flax in the home market. The salt and sugar industries, two powerful sections of Polish industry always require large quantities of sacks. Such had for ages been made only of jute. But jute has to be imported from abroad, and flax we have in Poland. That could be more logical than to replace the foreign product by home made material. The large Żyrardow mills which arose over a hundred years ago exclusively for the manufacture of linen fabrics and which only in post war times went over to cotton, have now resumed the working of home grown flax to produce linen sacks, infinitely more durable and better than those of jute.

Polish salt and Polish sugar have begun to wander abroad in Polish linen sacks. But this was still too little. It was but a small fraction of the work which had yet to be done in order to secure a better future for the agricultural worker in the Vilno province and other parts where a large amount of flax is cultivated. The Polish government is greatly interested in this future, is organising chambers of agriculture and has recently appointed special societies to look after the cultivation of flax and its manufacture.

All endeavours are now concentrated on improving the organization of the supply and demand of flax, the amelioration of cultivation and improving the varieties cultivated. Not long ago a meeting of the representatives of the organisations concerned with the purchase and sale of flax fibre was held in Vilno.

After lengthy discussions, it was decided to form an association, which should aim at imparting to associated institutions exhaustive and immediate information concerning market prices and the situation on the international markets. One of the aims of this association will also be to give technical assistance to organisations trading in flax by supplying them with experts, by training their staff and finally by supplying machinery for the cleaning of flax. This association is also to facilitate its members access to sources of credit either by mediation or by opening central depots where flax fibres can be stored and lent. There is a further project, which may soon be realized, of concluding an agreement between the home industry and the linen trade. This agreement according to the project would regulate the bases of transactions, questions of finances, losses and so on.

The flax problem, as we see, is beginning to become an important item in Poland.

Poland at the Coronation Naval Review

Poland has been invited to participate in the British Coronation Naval Review off Spithead. The destroyer "Burza" will represent the Polish Navy. It will be the first occasion on which the Polish Navy will have participated in a foreign ceremony of this kind.

masses of the working population will find efficient protection against cartel exploitation".

K. M.

IN A MERRY CAMP

The "Junaczkowski" of Bieniewice

(concluded)

Several girls were clearing the yards. The camp is still in the making. Notwithstanding this, the girls are very proud of the buildings erected mainly by themselves under the supervision of skilled artisans. The dining room, a long large bright hall, with central heating and flooded with light through a mass of large windows, has a small stage and quaint decorations; it is also used as an assembly and ball room not only for the camp, but lent occasionally for similar purposes to local organizations. We had a very good midday meal, the ration looking rather too big for me, but the girls have a very hearty appetite. Work, fresh air, physical exercise are good stimulants. In this company I felt young and merry. Looking round I made the remarkable observation that among all those heads, fair, brown and black, none seemed sad or downhearted and none even plain. The room hummed like a beehive, the chief topic being the preparations for the evening. Lots of things had to be done before six o'clock, the time for the opening of the exhibition. To be out of the way, I visited the little hospital, assisted the nurse and the doctor, learned about their care for the children of peasants, unemployed and others. The girls in the camp keep a nursery school for the children of the poor of the neighbourhood, thus learning the duty of social work and how to manage their own children in future. I had a peep into the kitchen where the idling after the meal is not at all small job. In the pantry, hundreds of loaves were cut into sandwiches and food prepared for the guests, boys from the neighbouring camps, visitors from Warsaw and the near town of Blonie. The looms and sewing machines were removed out of the workshops which housed the exhibition.

The busiest among the busy were the managers of the two co-operative societies, recognized institutions of the camp. The miniature Co-operative Consumers Society, with all the girls as members, sell in their shop everything a girl may want in addition to goods produced in the sewing and weaving workshops as well as dainties prepared in the culinary course.

The hairdressers Co-operative Society was formed spontaneously by a skilled hairdresser and seven amateurs who are now very clever at their work. Owing to this and to very low prices, as well as picturesque and nice implements, they are doing a roaring trade with customers not only from the camp but from the neighbourhood. Out of its surplus the Consumers' Society pays grants and donations to several social and patriotic institutions and out of the 20% of the surplus, allowed for the cultural and entertainment funds, they have bought a gramophone, they pay their visits to theatre and cinema and have money put by for an excursion to Zakopane.

The exhibition was an interesting survey of the girls' skill. They cobble their own shoes, they weave towels for all the camps, they design their own uniform, make beautiful nightgowns of muslin, they knit sweaters and make picturesque dresses out of coarse linen, woven and dyed in the camp. Every department had its stand, farm and garden, kitchen and pantry. The culinary products, refreshments, preserves, jellies, were partly made by girls who in their homes could not even

peel potatoes. In their families the only meals were often those fetched from the kitchen for the unemployed.

The simple tastes of the audience were manifested during the very successful amateur theatrical performance which the actors enjoyed themselves at least as much as the spectators. But the real fun began after supper when the band arrived. The girls in their summer uniforms, flowery dresses with white collars and aprons, were whirled about the hall by their guests. Happiness and joy, a thing rare among unemployed youth, gave the onlooker an insight into a small sector of fruitful and ingenious work of people who try to disperse the clouds and sorrow which, in these years of economical depression, have darkened the life of the young generation.

But the good done in the present shall bear fruit also in the future. Those girls trained skilfully for their task of mothers and wives, physically fit and morally healthy, enlightened as to their duties as citizens, are sure to be a proficient factor on the road towards better days.

Stanisława Goryńska

LONDON LETTER

(Continued from page 1)

A Disarmament conference is equally out of the question. But the visit of Mr. Norman Davis to London for the Sugar Conference must be expected to have results in a wider sphere, and the month of April has long been named as the month in which the results of recent exchanges will be made known. It is remembered that the tripartite agreement was announced unexpectedly, and an equal secrecy can only be expected now.

Opinion on the Spanish war has settled down into a conviction that a long struggle will result in a compromise. Previous civil wars in Spain are cited in support of this view, which leads to the comforting reflection that a weak and divided Spain will be outside the arena of European (and Mediterranean) politics. A better example of wishful thinking could hardly be found — the compromise theory appeared all over the Press as though by a given signal, indicating that the wishes are ardent, and that certain elements in Britain would like to have the job of mediating between the conflicting parties. However, it is a vain dream for two reasons. One, that the Spaniard has never yet compromised on the question of religion; he is violently for or against. The second reason is that every international force is actively engaged in Spain and must see the struggle fought to a finish.

Meanwhile a delicate situation has arisen around Bilbao and the Government has made a delicate decision to refuse belligerent right and to safeguard British shipping, but to warn it away from the three mile limit. As usual, the Labour Opposition is all for creating an incident which might lead to a full-blooded war, but words are cheap, and although the people will be indignant about starving out Bilbao (forgetting the blockade of Germany) it is probable that the decision of the Government will be tacitly approved.

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HORSZTYŃSKI

A TRAGEDY

by JULIUSZ SŁOWACKI
(Teatr Narodowy)

Juliusz Słowacki, the greatest of Polish dramatic authors and the finest romantic poet, was, as many another author, profoundly impressed by the works of William Shakespeare. This has caused some of Słowacki's characters and plots to be taken from a Shakespearean origin. Whereas, sometimes, such resemblances are involuntary, Słowacki is a conscious attempt to emulate Shakespeare's heroes by the wish to introduce them into a Polish atmosphere and Polish literature. The analogy between Shakespeare and Słowacki does not in any way deprive the Polish poet of his originality and freshness of idea, as, in taking over a Shakespearean model, he endows it with new traits, transfers it into a new society and situations, and creates for it an oftentimes tremendous and powerful tragic background.

The tragedy, *Horsztyński*, probably written in 1835, was found among the poet's manuscripts after his death. Unfortunately, it is incomplete as several scenes are lacking, including the end. In spite of this, *Horsztyński* (so called by Malecki, one of the Słowacki scholars and editors), will for ever remain in literature as the work of true genius, as a drama with unusual dramatic values, and, above all, as the psychological portrait of its hero, Szczesny Kossakowski, whose prototype was Hamlet.

The action of the tragedy takes place in 1794, during the epoch of Poland's partitions, just before the final loss of her independence. Słowacki contrasted, with great power, two houses representing the two political parties then dominant in Poland: that of Hetman Szymon Kossakowski, a member of the



1. Elżbieta BARSZCZEWSKA — Salomea and Ludwik SOLSKI — *Horsztyński*. 2. Marian WYRZYKOWSKI as Szczesny Kossakowski, 3. Józef WĘGRZYN — Hetman and Nina ŚWIERCZEWSKA — Amelia. (Phot. Jan Malarski).

Targowica Confederation, linked with the Russian Empress, Catherine the Great, and that of *Horsztyński*, a representative of Polish patriotism, formerly a leader of the Bar Confederation, and today an old, blind man. These two men are enemies, not only from their political-national point of view, but also as rivals in love in their youth. On this tragic background, Słowacki introduces his hero, Szczesny Kossakowski, whose history is even more sad than that of the Danish Crown Prince. In his life, each of his actions is a treason, causing a broken life. As a Pole, he cannot follow the trend of his father's politics and belong to the Targowica Confederation; on the other hand, as the son of the Hetman he cannot become one of the leaders of the Polish Insurrection, then being prepared in Wilno against the Russians. Szczesny remains in idleness, and this inactivity makes his life a tragedy which is all the more pathetic as, involuntarily, he is the cause of

the infamous death of his father. He is also unfortunate in his own feelings. Before all he loves his step-sister, Amelia, a thing which is a sin against nature.

Fleeing from this, he awakens another tragic love, that of Salomea, the young wife of *Horsztyński*. Salomea and Szczesny are too noble to betray the blind husband, whom Szczesny regards with pity as an old Polish patriot, a contrast to his own father. And finally, when he finds sensual happiness with Maryna, a peasant girl, he learns that she is the daughter of a man who died for his country and so she should have had protection from him instead of dishonour. This description shows sufficiently that there is no salvation for Szczesny.

Słowacki, one of the finest psychologists among the poets of the world, attained the summit in portraying the feeble, delicate and ill fated nature of Szczesny. In addition to this, Słowacki has given to *Horsztyński* great

Scenes from
"HORSZTYŃSKI"

dramatic power and expression, creating an interesting series of characterizations, and excellently rendered Polish society of that period. It is impossible in such a short review to analyse *Horsztyński* but it must be added that its language is of that supreme beauty which has made Słowacki the unsurpassed master of poetical and prose expression.

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The *Teatr Narodowy*, in again presenting this play, attained a new height in artistic values in its repertory. This masterpiece of Polish romanticism was prepared with a great deal of talent by Aleksander Zelmerowicz, who, as the stage director, gave to the tragedy all its dramatic plasticism, and cast it with the finest artists.

The subtle nature of Szczesny, with all its psychological weaknesses and sensitiveness, is rendered by Marian Wyrzykowski with convincing logic. At the same time the artist does not deprive the rôle of all the poetry presented by the figure of "the Polish Hamlet". It is a very interesting and profound creation, showing that Wyrzykowski has the greatest dramatic

talent among the younger generation of actors.

Horsztyński, in the interpretation of Ludwik Solski, was a portrayal of an unhappy blind man, very moving in each gesture and word. Hetman Kossakowski is one of the best characters in the repertoire of Józef Węgrzyn, who cleverly rendered the part with a Satanic appearance and voice. The scene when he appears as the ghost is unforgettable.

Elżbieta Barszczevska gave to Salomea the benefit of her beauty and the noble tone of her acting, creating a very impressive characterization of the unhappy woman in love. The lyrical and delicate feelings of Amelia were well drawn by the sincere playing of Nina Świercowska. The remaining rôles of the tragedy were performed by Artur Socha, Włodzisław Brydzinski, Bolesław Łoś, and Zofia Katerduna. As the tragedy is based on Shakespeare, there is an element of humour represented by the court of the Hetman. In this part of the performance, a capital creation is given by Aleksander Zelmerowicz, whose partners are Stanisławski, Rogińska and Lapiński.

The only weak spot of the performance are the settings by Stanisław Jarocki, while, on the contrary, the costumes reflect faithfully the style of dressing of the old Polish society.

ARNO

Art Exhibitions



Fr. Siedlecki. Dusk and Light.

The *Zachęta* is showing a memorial exhibition of the late Franciszek Siedlecki, one of the founders of the Polish Association of Graphic Artists and its President from its founding in 1919 till his death in 1934. To those who know him mainly in this capacity the wide range of the memorial exhibition is a surprise, for the artist's etchings form only a small part of it. Apparently only a selection is shown of each variety of his art and it is a great pity that more of his theatrical designs were not included. Two of the costumes shown — nos. 144 and 145 — are very interesting and two illustrations which also savour of the theatre, nos. 134 and 108, are also among the best of the work exhibited. The one shows a red, almost violet, ball against

a background of darkly flaming colours, the other looks like an Oriental fairy-tale. The most interesting and forceful work is that which is most abstract in character, based on effects of tone and line only. There are several such drawings in the second room of the Exhibition. There are also several works which, though representing figures, are so simplified in treatment both of figure and background that they are very closely related to abstraction and these also have great force of expression — e. g. 115 and 113. Among the etchings are several very good portraits. The well-known ones of Rudolf Steiner and of the poet Norwid, and two heads of women, one tormented in expression (209), the other calm (197). An etching of a veiled head is also good.

In this case, as in so many others, the material necessities of life gave the artist too little time and opportunity to reveal the full scope of his talent and to realise in which direction lay his strongest means of expression.

Wiktoria J. Goryńska

Mehoffer's designs for the windows of Fribourg Cathedral apparently arrived too late for the preceding exhibition and are now hung on the staircase whose height is unfortunately not sufficient to show their full length. They are undoubtedly the painter's finest work and worthy to rank with the great

Polish Emigration to Overseas Countries

In the course of March 598 persons emigrated to South America, 345 to North America and 50 to other overseas countries. The total emigration from Poland in March amounted to 1992 persons.

Only a small fraction of the annual increase of population is disposed of by emigration. The net annual emigration, after the deduction of emigrants returning from abroad, amounts to only about 14,000 per year (average for the last five years), while the average annual increase of population is about 410,000 (ATE).

glass windows of the Middle Ages. Even in their present position, with unfavourable light and truncated design, they are well worth seeing.



Fr. Siedlecki. "Syrius".

PARIS TO WELCOME 150 CONVENTIONS DURING EXHIBITION OF 1937

During 1937, Paris will be transformed into the world's convention city. More than 150 congresses will bring 150,000 delegates to Paris from May to October in connection with the International Exhibition of Arts and Crafts which will open May 1.

And yet, one of the biggest conventions of 1937 will be held outside of Paris: namely in Nice, where some 10,000 Rotarians are expected to assemble next June for the annual meeting of the Rotary International.

The congresses to be held in Paris are of every variety: international, scientific, industrial, religious, artistic and humanitarian. The Convention Bureau, organised by the Exhibition, has prepared an alphabetical list of the groups expected, and the subjects they are to discuss. Under the letter P, for example, are the following topics: peace, prisoners, philately, the press; pedagogy, psychiatry, philosophy and parliaments. Equally diverse subjects are listed under other letters ranging from suburban gardens to underground urbanism, from the technique of stained glass to practical metrology, from homeopathic medicine to "the practical use of Esperanto". The rival international language *Ido* will also have its congress.

The Exhibition will open May 1, and the first congress will assemble May 3, the International Confederation of Intellectual Workers. From this date until the end of October congresses

will be meeting daily in Paris. Some of them will attract several hundred delegates, others will be attended by 4,000 and more, such as the World Petroleum Congress. There will be international congresses devoted to wine, oil, cotton, rubber, railways and architecture. In the official list, such names appear as the International Association of Deaf-mutes and the Association for the Christian Family; also accountants, composers, alpinists, choirmasters, inventors and the International Union of Marionettes (Punch and Judy shows). This congress will be presided by Senator Justin Godart from Lyons, where he is the president of "The Friends of Guignol". Guignol being the French Punch.

For more than two years the Convention Bureau of the 1937 Exhibition has been hard at work issuing invitations, finding places for meetings, arranging agenda, and so forth. Its work is far from finished. Indeed, it will scarcely end until the Exhibition itself ends, but it is now possible to announce that this bureau has done a good job, with the result that some 150,000 "congressists" will come to Paris during 1937.

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VIENNESE LETTER

Scarcely had the echoes of the visit of Herr von Nitti to Vienna died away, when an apparently imperceptible newspaper article astounded Austria and the whole of Europe.

A well known Italian journalist in the propinquity of the Italian Government, Virginio Guyda, emphasized in this article that Italy for the future is ready to guarantee Austrian independence, and then distinctly declares that the problem of the Monarchy in Austria is completely inactual and inversely could, in plain terms, even cause a dramatic situation relating to the peace of Europe.

This article which dumbled the Austrian Legitimists whose political leader, Baron Wiesner, was even received by Mussolini at special audience, caused a strong embitterment of Austrian political opinion as far as Italy is concerned.

The above mentioned attitude of the Italian Government towards this very delicate problem of the Restoration, brought to public opinion in the form of a Press article, might undoubtedly be considered as a skilful riposte of Herr von Nourath for his failure in Vienna. It is stated that he was given to understand, that in spite of the different point of view of the German Government, the Austrian Government insists on considering the problem of Restoration as a purely internal Austrian concern.

The riposte took place very soon and from the least expected direction. The Berlin Rome Agreement (called in Central Europe, "Axle Berlin—Rome") demonstrated its vitality, and the needle of the political compass of Austrian policy began apparently to quiver. At that moment, many politicians who over estimating the warning of the Italian Government against the perhaps exaggerated hopes of the Legitimists, began to construct the foregoing supposition—the removal of Austria from Italy in search of support from the Great Powers. There were even those who on the political horizon distinguished the contour of the new agreement Vienna—Prague which means the rapprochement to the Little Entente.

Let us examine in the light of the history of Austro-Italian relations how far one might consider this supposition as reasonable. After the World War, the government of Nitti would even prefer the common frontier with Germany as with Austria on the ruins of which could be restored the former friendly dynasty of the Hapsburgs. In the meantime, Rome is negotiating with Budapest in order to remove it as far as possible from Vienna.

When Mussolini came to power, he shared, at first, Nitti's point of view. Later on, in consequence of the consolidation of the Little Entente, he endeavours to find a rapprochement with Austria, beginning in the meantime a great political game in the Balkans. In consequence of the failure of his intentions regarding the Italo-Yugo-Slav Agreement (negotiations with Nintich at Nettuno) Mussolini looks for support in Central Europe. At that period 1928—1930, Rome, for the price of the support of its activities in the Balkans, could even be ready for the far-going concessions for the German plans regarding Austria.

Rome reserved judgement concerning the concluded Customs Agreement (Zoll Union) between Austria and Germany in 1930, which caused vivid protests from London and Paris. The Italian policy at that period had to choose

either an agreement with Germany for the price of the so-called Anschluss, or with France and in consequence the contraposition of the German plans regarding Austria. The faults of the violent Hitlerian policy regarding Austria caused a revision of attitude in Italy towards Austria.

A trial of compromise took place in 1933. The Duce invited for a common conference Dollfus, Goerring and Papen. The trial did not give any concrete results. In August 1933, Dollfus alone arrives at Riccione where he has an important conversation with Mussolini. The result is the Rome Protocols signed March 17, 1934, which formed from that moment the basis of Austrian foreign policy. Italy therefore becomes the true protector and guarantor of Austrian Independence, Italy proving it by the concentration of Italian troops on the Brenner in 1934, when during the Nazi Putsh in Vienna, German troops were ready to march.

One might also mention the conference at Stresa organised by Mussolini, in which Laval and Macdonald also attended. The conference resulted in the furthering of Austrian Independence.

At the outbreak of the Abyssinian War, Austria emphasises its loyalty towards Italy and abstains from taking part in the sanctions (that the non decision secured for Austria enormous economic profit is another question). Later, Italy being very embarrassed in Abyssinia approves the Austrian search for support from the Little Entente (unofficial visit of Schussnig to Prague in Dec. 35). The military successes in Abyssinia impelled Austria to give up the search for other support. At last in the summer of 1936, Mussolini at Rocca de la Caminata suggests to Schussnig the necessity of normalisation of relations with Germany. A famous Austrian—German Agreement takes place. In this way, the drastic problem of maintenance of Austrian Independence due to the fact of connecting it now also by Germany disappears from the further German-Italian discussions.

The Agreement Berlin-Rome still remains the instrument of Italian policy towards Great Britain, in connection with that, as rightly states Virginio Guyda, Italy cannot forever be guard on the Brenner. One does not understand this statement as does the nervous French Press that Italy will never agree to the common frontier with Germany on the Brenner. This is well understood in Austria and therefore at every occasion the chief of government emphasises the true meaning of the Rome Protocols for Austria.

It is understood in Austria that the apparent support of the Great Powers is a mere illusion. It is well known here that there is no change in Great Britain's attitude from the time of Lord Castlereagh's declaration in 1820 that Great Britain is the last country from which one might expect intervention in abstract matters—for such an abstract matter, one might undoubtedly even now consider in England the Austrian Independence.

Even the eventual French support in spite of its constant struggle with the problem of the Danube Basin especially with Austria is estimated here as not very concrete. The real estimation of the strength and of the rude reality shows the Austrian Government the proper way, the Road to Rome. And that road will soon be taken by Schussnig.

Eugen Hinterhoff

Foreign Artists in Warsaw

Rumanian Singers at the Opera

On Thursday the Warsaw Opera presented two leading Rumanian singers Mr. Dinu Badescu (baritone) and Mr. Serban Tassiani (baritone) in Giuseppe Verdi's masterpiece The Troubadour.

The soloists of the Royal Opera in Bucharest showed themselves to be first rate singers and of great power, proving that the level of the Rumanian operatic art is considerably high.

Mr. Dinu Badescu, as Manrico, the troubadour, showed a great, splendidly sounding tenor voice with a good musical preparation. His high notes are equally fine, from fortissimo to piano, while the middle tones win the hearers by their lovely timbre. The famous aria of Manrico sung by Mr. Badescu with authority was awarded with enormous applause of the audience and then repeated.

Mr. Serban Tassiani in the part of Count di Luna also gave a very creditable performance, showing possibilities of voice and his musical culture made his appearance one of the most interesting to be met in this role.

The guests found an excellent partner in Franciszka Plafidowa, a prima donna of Warsaw Opera, to whom the part of Leonora is especially well suited. Her dramatic soprano represents all the highest qualities of that kind of voice: great power, delightful timbre, noble tone, strength in her piano. The scenes of the second act and before the prison were triumphs for Plafidowa.

Among other singers appearing that evening *Helena Leska* (excellent rendering of the mezzo-soprano part of Azucena) and *Zofia Tokarzewska* (mezzo) deserve mention.

J. M.

Mr. Savery to lecture on Somerset

Monday evening, April 19th, at 8 o'clock, Mr. Frank Savery, Consul-General in Poland for Great Britain, will give a lecture at the YMCA in English without translation on some of the more picturesque scenery and interesting architectural features of Somerset, one of the most attractive of the English counties, both from the point of view of natural scenery and of stately buildings. The lecture will be illustrated by 45 lantern slides.

All men and women who understand English are invited to attend this lecture, admission to which is free.

The lecture will take place in the large lecture room in the basement of the YMCA building at Marji Konopnickiej 6

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Warsaw Amusements.

THEATRES

NARODOWY. "Horastyński" "Pan Jowialski".
POLSKI. "Pignation".
Friday. Appearance of Viennese Theatre "Jean" with Lili Darvas and Hans Jaray
NOWY. "Nagroda Literacka".
LETNI. "Sunday to-morrow".
MAZY. "Wito no Nohat".
MALICKIE. "Little Kitty".
ATENUM. "People on an ice-floe".
KAMERALNY. "The Marriage".
REDUTA. Closed.

MUSIC.

TEATR WIELKI—OPERA.
Saturday. "The Troubadour".
Appearance of Rumanian Singers.
Sunday mat. "Me-me Butterfly".
Sunday ev. "Carmen". Last appearance of Conchita Velasquez and Rumanian Singers.
Monday. Dance Recital of Olga Slawka and Afrika Doering.
Tuesday. "The Barber of Seville".
Wednesday. Premiere "Blanchefleur".
Thursday. "Les Pêcheurs de Perles".
Friday. "Blanchefleur".

FILHARMONIA

Sunday. Matinée Concert.
Friday. Symphonic Concert

KONSERWATORIUM

Saturday. Recital of Monique de la Butchellerie and Stanislaw Staniewicz.

BROADCASTING FROM WARSAW

Sunday. 21.20. Recital of an English pianist Beverage Webster.
Friday. "Blanchefleur" from the Teatr Wielki (Opera of Warsaw)

MUSICAL SHOWS

OPERA TKA. Parnell's Ballet and attractions.
CYRULIK WARSZAWSKI—"Balsan".

TEATR SILE. "Victoria and her husband".
ZACHETA. Jables Show of Augustynowicz and collection of Mehoffer.
CIRCUS. Daily at 8.15.

ART AND OTHER

EXHIBITIONS
L.P.S. "Interior Decoration".
ZACHETA. Jables Show of Augustynowicz and collection of Mehoffer.

CINEMAS

APOLLO. Igo Sym and Kenda in "Dyplomacyjna Zona". Polish.
ATLANTIC. Deanna Durbin in "Penny" American.
BALETYK Grata Garbo in "Dame aux Camélias". American.
CAPITOL. Barczewska and Brodiewicz in "Ordynat Michorowski". Polish.
CASINO. Ignacy Paderewski in "Moonlight Sonata".
COLOSSUM. Irene Dunne in "Theodore Career". American.
EUROPA. Errol Flynn in "The green sign".
FILHARMONIA. Pola Negri in "Shanghai". German.
HOLLYWOOD. Bodo in "Pietro Wyżni". Polish.
IMPERIAL. Fred Mc. Murray in "New York—San Francisco". American.
PAN. Dietrich and Boyer in "The Garden of Allah". American.
RIALTO. Joan Crawford in "Dont touch a man".
ROMA. "The Dancing Pirate".
STYLOWY. Sonia Henie "One in a million".
SWIATOWID. "New Tarzan". American.
STUDIO. Renata Muller in "Madame Lenox". German.

What the asterisks mean:—
***An outstanding feature. ***Very good.
**Good. *Average entertainment.

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The following persons are entitled to receive visas or immigration certificates for Palestine:

No. of certificate	N A M E	Age	Category	Last date of visa	Address
101741	GURFINKIEL Abram Chawa	56	D	13.7.37	Mordy 2/Siedleckie
101776	STOCK Ester	51	D	15.7.37	Tarnopol
	Ruchel Pryma	7	2		
10777	STORCH Markus Szawa	56	D	15.7.37	Boryslaw
101821	ZAREMBKA Chaja	69	D	18.7.37	Zambrów, Rynek 21
101823	GOLDBERG Pessa	57	D	18.7.37	74 Narutowica, Lodz
101826	KNOPFACHER-PESSE Szaia	62	D	18.7.37	Warsaw
101827	ORLOWSKI Wolf	63	D	18.7.37	10 Kilinskiego, Siedlce
101829	LACKOW Schmuel	38	D	18.7.37	Wilenska 6, m. 21, Wilno
101830	CZEKISZ Malka	38	D	18.7.37	Damerszewo, Niegodle
	Mala	7			głosei 16
101831	RYWAN Tanba	60	D	19.7.37	Aleksandrow
101839	TRES Baruch	58	D	20.7.37	Pilsudskiego 44, Sarny
	Hanna	48			
	Josef	14			
101842	FIKS Chaja	46	D	20.7.37	Tuczyn
	Gerszin	16			
	Aurum	14			
102531	BRAW Rywka	68	D	7.7.37	ul. Lwowska 10, Tarnow
102538	REDELMAN Abram	15	D	13.7.37	Gowarczow
102539	GOTTBERG Marjem	30	D	13.7.37	Sambar, Legionow 35
102541	GONSKA Pessa	73	D	14.7.37	Dzika 3/15, Warsaw
102542	WEISS Malka	37	D	14.7.37	Drohobycz
102543	SKIBUN Chaja	74	D	24.7.37	Chancanowska 26 Warsaw
102570	WELCZKIER Lejba	69	D	24.7.37	Pocztowa 66/6, Chelm
103534	BASIN Chaja	34	D	13.7.37	Radoszkowice, Wilenska
	Jakow	8			
	Ester	6			
103966	SILBERBERG Aron	60	D	16.7.37	Biala near Bieleisk
103967	TENENWURCEL Bazeza	59	D	16.7.37	Dzialoszyce, Kielecka 6
	Feiga	45			
	Jakub	16			
	Fela	12			
103968	FRENKEL Josef	18	B/3	18.7.37	Legionow 10, Lodz
103969	WEINROB Rachmiel	35	B/3	18.7.37	Geisera, 14, Otwock
103971	SZPIELER Doba	62	D	21.7.37	Lelew, Kochanowski-gos 58
103972	ALTER Nehemja	63	D	21.7.37	Lodz, Srodmietska 20
103978	PASS Chaskiel	64	A/1	11.7.37	Lodz Gdansk 37
103979	SZPIELER Doba	9	D	5.5.37	Lodz Gdansk 37
(Original Immigration of Doba SZPIELER at this office). Admission to Palestine not later than:					
F.2376	L.46 SZPIELER Sclama	36	G	15.5.37	Pawia 13/12 Warsaw
F.2377	L.25 KREINIS Mina	44	H	5.7.37	Smargon, Pilsudski
	Aziel	9			Place
	Elisabeth	7			
F.2380	BRAGINSKI Lipman	43	G	30.8.37	—
2377	L.24 SZAFIRSTEJN	73	G	26.6.37	Otwock, Kupiecka 26
2376	L.54 PIORKO Riwka	37	G	27.6.37	Grajewo
Following persons will be granted Immigration certificates in Cat. A (1).					
F.2380	BOROW Lazar	35	A/1	—	Wilno
	Chaja	35			
	Rywa	30			
F.2380	HAASE Siegfried	57	A/1	—	Pleszew
	Else	40			
	Margot	16			
	Manfred	13			